

INTERVIEW LOG SHEET

PIRSA Oral History Program –State Library reference no. for Somerville Collection OH 675/2

An interview with Tom Miller by Bernard O’Neil on 1, 9 and 21 October 2003, and 4, 20 and 25 November 2003 in regards to the history of the Department of Agriculture.

Time	Subject	Proper names
Tape 1, Side A		
0:20	Personal background: born August 1917, Mt Lawley, WA; father a railwayman in Western Australian Railways; mother a nurse; Great Depression experiences; attended State school and Perth Modern School; parents’ attitude to education; family; career options; attending university; cadetship in WA Department of Agriculture	Mt Lawley; Perth; Sydney; WA goldfields; Pichi Richi (SA); Perth Modern School; Fremantle Boys School
7:45	Cadets in horticulture working on black spot in apples; BSc (Agric.)	Beverley Research Centre (WA)
9:55	Nature of cadetship; choice of study course; graduation 1940	
13:35	Horticulture Branch work; World War II restricted manpower	Manjimup
16:00	Career opportunities in the Department; Director-General of Agriculture, North West Frontier Province, Pakistan in 1950; marriage and young family; long stay under the Colombo Plan	Pakistan; Prime Minister Menzies; <i>Stratheden</i> ; Thomas Cook & Sons; Peshawar; Bombay; Fremantle; India; Colombo Plan
26:50	Managing the Pakistan Department of Agriculture; return to WA Department; holiday visit to Pakistan; vacancy for Chief Horticulturalist in SA; reorganisation of SA Department	Perth; Pakistan; Geoff Strickland; Dr Callaghan; Bob Herriott; Marshall Irving
Tape 1, Side B		
0:04	Reorganisation of SA Department; application for Chief Horticulturalist’s job; limited travel in Australia, mainly on apple disease	Allan Callaghan; Strickland; Pakistan; Sydney; Adelaide; Public Service Board; Syd de Beaux; Canberra; Melbourne; Western Australia; Perth; Victoria
6:15	Network of Chiefs of Horticulture; quarantine and fruit export responsibilities; Commonwealth role; Chief Horticulturalists Committee; fruit fly	Adelaide; Perth; Melbourne; Sydney; Canberra; de Beaux; Brisbane; Hobart; Cairns
10:45	Commonwealth Apple and Pear Board leading to Chief Horticulturalists meetings (1950–1978); Chief Agronomists Committee	Strickland; Mr Powell (WA); Perth; Tasmania; Sydney; Melbourne; Hobart
13:45	Meetings of Chief Veterinarians; pleuropneumonia; attitude on Commonwealth–State relations; history of Commonwealth Horticultural Committee; Commonwealth trying to take over State jobs; state-based mentality	Dunstan; Monarto; CSIRO; Canberra
19:00	Public Service Board interview; began as SA’s Chief Horticulturalist in October 1955; career move but limited knowledge of SA; learning on the job; local industries – apples, citrus; mixed horticulture; graduates as research officers	West Pakistan; Sydney; Murray River; Indus River; West Australia; Callaghan; Strickland; Adelaide Hills; Riverland; South East; Western Australia; Renmark; Berri; Waikerie; Barossa Valley
28.30	Research officers in horticulture, entomology, pathology, viticulture and post-harvest handling of fruit; growth in size of Department; fruit fly outbreaks	Mile End; Port Adelaide; Western Australia
Tape 2, Side A		
0:00	Fruit fly eradication campaigns; fruit garden city; market gardens; types of fruit fly and interstate experiences;	Strickland; Adelaide; Magill; Virginia; Sydney; Melbourne; Adelaide Hills; Murray River; Renmark; Waikerie; Tom Playford; New South Wales; Queensland; Western Australia; Carnarvon; Albany; Waite Institute; Harry Kemp; Kemp’s Nursery; Dr Andrewartha; Perth; Balhannah

15:00	Location of the Department	Lands Department; Simpson Building, Gawler Pl
16:30	Early experiences with leaders of the Department	West Australia; Roseworthy College; Callaghan; Strickland; Playford
18:40	Sale and acquisition of Horticultural Research Centres	Blackwood; Berri; Loxton; Playford; Dave Kilpatrick; Adelaide Hills; Lenswood; Gabe Bywaters; Tom Casey; Lands Department; Urrbrae High School; Education Department
25:00	Directors of the Department; fruit fly outbreaks	Callaghan; Roseworthy College; Mid North; Mt Gambier; Torrens Valley;
Tape 2, Side B		
1.30	Geoff Strickland's rise to Director's position; Extension Branch's advisory work; role of District Advisers; regulatory work on crops and plants; fruit export and inspection	Strickland; Barley Board; Milton Spurling; Herriott; Renmark, Berri; Waikerie; Barossa Valley; Adelaide Hills; South East; Naracoorte; New Zealand; Riverland
13.15	Fruit inspectors	
15:00	Broad knowledge and expertise of District officers	Riverland; Victoria; NSW; Murray Cooper; Berri; John Jennings; Nuriootpa; Waikerie; Greg Botting; Adelaide Hills; Renmark
18.35	Roseworthy vs university graduates as District Advisers and Research Officers	
21:25	Annual Branch conference and regional meetings; process of regionalisation	Riverland; Adelaide Hills; South East; Struan; Murray Bridge; Loxton; Nuriootpa
27:40	Size and distribution of Horticulture Branch	Playford; Northfield
30:00	Northfield Research Centre	Irving; Adelaide; Gawler Place; Northfield; Infectious Diseases Hospital
Tape 3, Side A		
0.00	Northfield Research Centre; pig farm; research laboratory; decision to relocate to Monarto; changes to the Department's administration; attitudes to working at Northfield and Monarto	Playford; Adelaide; Northfield; Irving; Don Dunstan; Monarto
10:00	Attitudes to Monarto; expansion of Northfield	Dunstan; Northfield; Irving; McColl
16:30	On-going experimental research	Callaghan
20:10	Modern technological approaches	
21:00	Overseas work, 1961 – Commonwealth Fruit Officer; export of fruit	London; England; Europe; Perth; Tasmania; SA; Victoria; NSW; Dave Kilpatrick
28:55	Other overseas experiences; world horticultural congress, including 1978 in Australia	Europe; England; North America; Holland; Germany; France; Denmark; USA; Italy; Sydney Opera House; Warsaw
Tape 3, Side B		
0:10	World horticultural congress	Warsaw; Israel; United States; South Africa; New Zealand
2:40	International dimension to working on agriculture; dryland farming techniques vs horticulture crops; South Australian technology; winemaking	Libya; Middle East; Africa; America; Phylloxera Board; Roseworthy College
11:15	Move of big companies and international companies into wine industry; wine production in SA; viticultural specialists in the Department	Riverland; Barossa; Southern Vales; Clare; Coonawarra; Langhorne Creek; South East; Padthaway; Wally Boehm; Richard Cirami; Brian Coombe; Waite Institute
16:00	Career opportunities for individuals	
17:15	Loxton as a War Service Land Settlement area; irrigation; Research Centre	Loxton; Lands Department; E&WS; Spurling; Strickland
Tape 4, Side A		
0:30	Potato Board; Rundle Street markets	WA, SA; Victoria; Strickland; Virginia; Adelaide Hills; South East; Mt Gambier; Naracoorte; Jack McCulloch; Rundle St
8:15	Opposition to SA potato growers; price fixing; cessation of	Victoria; Sydney; Melbourne; Adelaide;

	Potato Board; licensing; black market in potatoes; surplus	Ballarat
14:00	Potato Board's independence from Department of Agriculture	
15:30	Dried Fruits Board (including chairmanship); other boards	Hughes and Vale
20:00	Phylloxera Board	
20:30	Royal Commission into the Grape Industry; price control	Mr Murphy; Playford; Barossa; Riverland
26:50	Role as a Royal Commissioner	Mr De Rieu
29:30	Other enquiries, reports and investigations – Citrus Enquiry Commission; Citrus Organising Committee; marketing SA oranges	New Zealand; Truby King; Harvey Turner
	Tape 4, Side B	
0:05	Marketing of South Australian oranges; own involvement in the grower organisations	NZ; Citrus Growers Association; John Medley; Fruit Growers and Market Gardeners Association; Canberra; Potato Board
6:30	Similarity to interstate associations and boards; co-operative movement in South Australia	Playford Government; State Bank; Lenswood; Cudlee Creek; Balhannah; Ashton; Murray Citrus Growers Co-op; England
10:45	Departmental policy on assisting farmers and growers vs enforcing rules and regulations; goal to improve	
15:30	Quality of Department's support	
16:45	Ministerial or departmental appointments to boards and industry organisations; role of Ministers	
20:30	Vine selection; introduction of pests and diseases; expanding the wine industry; vine selection committee; use of root-stock; apple selection; lead of the growers; Fruit Industry Identities event	Mildura; CSIRO; Sydney; Max Loder; Germany; Harry Tulloch; Clare; Barossa; Riverland; Adelaide
	Tape 5, Side A	
0:35	Own and the Department's involvement with the Royal Show; use of display material elsewhere in SA; advisory role (apricot gummosis, vine improvement, River Murray salinity, quarantine, fruit imports, vegetable imports, tree imports, Argentine ants, fruit fly); field days; Bureau meetings	Adelaide; Albert Engel; Dried Fruits Board
15:50	Conferences, seminars and workshops (export fruit, quarantine)	
18:20	Chief Horticulturalists Conference; upon retirement, prepared a history of the conference for the Commonwealth; Standing Committee of the Ministers of Agriculture	
25:40	Ministerial conferences; independence of the States	
28:00	Fruit export organised by the Commonwealth;	
30:50	Commonwealth take over of powers	CSIRO; Mildura; Merbein Research Centre
	Tape 5, Side B	
0:05	Rivalry between State and Commonwealth bodies locally	CSIRO; WA; Waite Institute; University of Adelaide
3:11	Parallel organisations in the same field; collaboration	Waite Institute; CSIRO
8:35	Graduates as research officers; ongoing institutional jealousies	Waite Institute; Gordon Edwards; Brian Coombe; Adelaide University; Roseworthy College; University of California; Glen Osmond
12:35	Role of the Commonwealth Department of Primary Industry	CSIRO; Canberra
16:15	Stability of State and federal governments; provision of information and applied research; farm management; role of the Playford Government; attitude of premier	Playford Government; Menzies Government; CSIRO; Waite Institute; Public Service Board; Radium Hill
28:00	Federal government impact on Department's work	Monarto; Europe; England; Asia
28:55	Commonwealth Extension Services	
	Tape 6, Side A	
0:35	Retired Officers Group – origins and development; view on South Australian agriculturalists	Gawler; Arthur Hooper; Park Hotel; Arthur Tideman; Bernie O'Neil; Roseworthy

		College; Callaghan; Sydney; Melbourne; Canberra; CSIRO; Lands Department
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14:00	Retired Officers Group field trips by bus; developments on Kangaroo Island	Bob Hagerstrom; Kangaroo Island; Adelaide; Riverland; Clare; Port Lincoln; Port Augusta; Penneshaw; Royal Coach Motel; Kent Town; Bywaters
22:30	Former Minister's involvement in the Retired Officers Group and the Department's work; Extension Branch; press releases; personal identities of leaders in the Department lost; role of wives and women in the department's work	Bywaters; Casey; Ross Storey; Playford; Bob Herriott; Mid North; South East; Trevor Roberts; Hooper; Gawler
	Tape 6, Side B	
0:05	Retired Officers Group; departmental social club, sporting interests and Christmas party	Northfield; Adelaide; Northfield Research Centre
3:05	Move to Northfield facilities; Head Office and associated accommodation in Adelaide; intention to re-locate the Department to Northfield became the Monarto proposal; spirit at Northfield	Simpson's Building, Gawler Pl; Treasury Building; Northfield; Infectious Diseases Hospital; Irving; Callaghan; London; AMP Building, Gawler Pl; Waite Institute; Glen Osmond; Grenfell St; Playford; Dunstan; Monarto
10:15	Public Service opposition to the Monarto idea	Monarto; Bywaters; Simpson Building; Grenfell St building; Treasury Building
13:40	Professional organisations; management groups; the union	Public Service Association; Institute of Agricultural Science; Roseworthy; Sydney; Melbourne; John Feagan; Graham Itzerott
19:15	Wages	Public Service Board
20:20	Training courses vs learning on the job; children following parents into jobs	Herriott; Pakistan; Ernabella; Orange, NSW; Merriden, WA; Yeelanna
27:55	Size and quality of the Department; leadership by grower organisations; decision-making	Fruit Growers and Market Gardeners Association; Apple and Pear Growers Association
	Tape 7, Side B	
0:35	Departmental work on boards and committees; packaging of produce; post-retirement work on boards	Dried Fruits Board; Nelson Wheeler; Angas Park; WA; Victoria; NSW; Renmark
11:40	Marketing and distribution of potatoes and dried fruits	Potato Marketing Board; Dried Fruits Board; Adelaide; Sydney
16:30	Supply and demand of products; inspectors	Adelaide Market
20:00	South Australian produce to the world market	Britain; European Common Market; WA; Europe; England; Holland; France; Germany; Victoria; Tasmania; Department of Primary Industry; Canberra; Argentina; South Africa; Suez Canal
26:30	Change from producer to importer of fruit and vegetables; niche marketing; butter export; anti-margarine campaign	Melbourne; Sydney; Adelaide; Riverland; Kangaroo Island; London; WA; Irving
	Tape 7, Side B	
0:05	Importance of orange juice; orange juice trade	King; NZ; Murray Citrus Growers Association; Medley
3:10	Working life – hours, temporary and permanent staff, office accommodation, working conditions, smoking in office, safety	The 'Black Stump'; Grenfell St; Northfield; Monarto; Gawler Pl
8:50	Salary and benefits; leave; superannuation	Strickland; WA
14:25	Women in the work force; dress standards	Mary Walker; Irving
20:00	Working on fruit fly; unionism	Glenside; Conyngnam St
24:20	Hazardous chemicals	
24:45	Work behaviours and work patterns; office hours; flexi-time	
28:40	Status of the Department over time	Lands Department; E&WS; Riverland